

What is claimed, is:

1. A method for operating a network of interface nodes (3), in particular IEEE 1394 interface nodes, in which interface nodes (3) are connected via a data bus (1), with at least one of the interface nodes (3) in each case receiving self-ID information from others of the interface nodes (3) after a reset operation on the data bus (1), and with each self-ID information item comprising self-ID data, wherein joint information with joint header data and joint ID data is formed in the at least one of the interface nodes (3) for the self-ID information which has been received by the other interface nodes (3), and is stored in a memory device (23) in the at least one interface node (3).

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the self-ID data for the respective self-ID information comprises a first data word and a second data word with the second data word being the complement of the first data word, wherein the second data word is processed in the at least one of the interface nodes (3) in a present operating mode for error checking of the first data word, and wherein the first data word is in each case transferred to the joint ID data, forming the joint information, when no error is found during the checking of the second data word.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, once the process of writing the joint information to the memory device (23) has been completed, information about the completion of the process of writing the joint information is transmitted to a driver program (5) for the at least one of the interface nodes (3), in order to release the joint information for processing with the aid of the driver program (5).

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the

- 17 -

formation of the joint information and/or the writing of the joint information to the memory device (30) is terminated when the at least one of the interface nodes (3) receives information about a further reset operation on the data bus (1) during the formation of the joint information and/or the writing of the joint information to the memory device (30).

5. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein older joint information is overwritten when the joint information is written to the memory device (30), this older joint information being the joint information which was written at least partially to the memory device (30) before the process of writing the joint information.

6. An interface device (3), in particular an IEEE 1394 interface, which is coupled to a data bus (1), having:

- transmission means (34) for transmitting self-ID information to other interface devices in a network of interface devices;
- receiving means (35) for reception of respective self-ID information from the other interface devices in the network of interface devices after a reset operation on the data bus (1), with the respective self-ID information comprising self-ID data;
- processing means (21) for forming joint information with joint header data and joint ID data on the basis of the self-ID information which is received from the other interface devices; and
- writing means for writing the joint information to a memory device (30).

7. The interface device (3) as claimed in claim 6, wherein the self-ID data in the respective self-ID information comprises a first data word and a second

- 18 -

data word, with the second data word being the complement of the first data word, and wherein the processing means (21) have associated test means (39) in order to use the second data word in a continuous
5 operating mode for error checking of the first data word.

8. The interface device (3) as claimed in claim 6, distinguished by signaling means (25) for formation and
10 for transmission of terminating information to a driver program (5) after completion of the process of writing the joint information to the memory device (30), in order to release the joint information for processing with the aid of the driver program (5).

15
9. The interface device (3) as claimed in claim 6, distinguished by interruption means (24) in order to interrupt the formation of the joint information and/or the writing of the joint information to the memory
20 device (30) when information about a further reset operation on the data bus (1) is received during the formation of the joint information with the aid of the processing means (21).